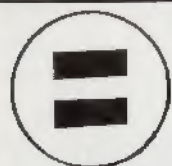


URBAN LEAGUE OF ESSEX COUNTY



508 CENTRAL AVE - NEWARK, N.J. 07107
MAY 1978

GRANTS AWARDED

URBAN LEAGUE OF ESSEX COUNTY GARNERS TWO GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

The Urban League of Essex County was recently awarded contracts by the Newark Mayor's Office of Employment and Training and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The \$66,499 contract awarded by MOET is to provide career development counseling to out-of-school youth between the ages of 16 and 19 years old. A total of 90 youngsters will be serviced over an approximate 30 week period. The funds for the Youth Employability Skills Program originated through the federal government enactment of the Youth Employment and Demonstration Projects Act of 1977.

The second contract in the amount of \$14,336 was awarded by HUD to enable the League to expand its housing counseling services to homeowners and tenants throughout Essex County. The Urban League has been in the forefront of organizations which provide these invaluable services. It is estimated that the federal government saves more than \$10,000 for each property which is prevented from foreclosure through default and delinquency counseling. The Urban League Housing Department has also assisted hundreds of low-income families in locating decent apartments.

UNITED WAY AWARDS ESSEX COUNTY LEAGUE

The Urban League of Essex County was among several organizations that received awards from the United Way of Essex and West Hudson

for having employees who made record setting contributions to United Way during its 1977 fund drive. The awards were made at the United Way Annual Meeting which was recently held at the Robert Treat Hotel in Newark.

ULEC RECEIVES BUILDING IMPROVEMENT GRANT

Langdon Dames announced the receipt of a grant from the Lillia Babbitt Hyde Foundation in the amount of \$3,770 to begin renovation on the interior of the League's headquarters at 508 Central Avenue. Improvements to the Central Avenue facility are being made to accommodate the branch staff who were recently relocated at League headquarters.

The site at 58 Jones Street, Newark, which formerly housed the Economic Development and Employment and Housing and Community Development divisions of the Essex County League was recently purchased by the Kenneth A. Gibson Civic Association.

in appreciation

Our sincere thanks to the corporate contributors to the Urban League of Essex County 1977 Fund Drive:

PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE COMPANY
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NEW JERSEY BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY
PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC & GAS COMPANY
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(continued Pg. 2)

WESTERN ELECTRIC COMPANY
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We are proud of the success of this effort and offer special thanks to Mr. Robert V. Van Fossan, President of Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company, for his assistance and expertise as co-chairman of the fund drive.

Matthew G. Carter
Chairman
Membership Development Committee

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"What Is The Future of Day Care
In New Jersey?"



Today we are confronted with the demise of seven day care centers in Newark. Tomorrow childhood development centers throughout the state of New Jersey will be threatened with the virtual extinction of day care as we know it today.

Why must day care be placed in such a precarious position? Is it deserved? Has day care failed

to accomplish its goals? Let us address these questions and issues in an inverse order.

Most educators and psychologists agree that the most critical stage of a person's development is during the period of birth to six years of age. We are told that the human personality is completely formed during this period. How the individual will regard himself and the world around him for the rest of his or her life, will basically be determined during this phase of social and psychological development.

To a very great degree, the winners and losers of life are determined by six years of age.

Can you imagine how important this phase of growth is to blacks and other minorities who are struggling to pull themselves up from the depths of poverty and discrimination into the mainstream of life? Is there any wonder why there is such a frantic out-cry by minority mothers when the continued existence of day care is threatened? They fully realize that the exorcism of day care can virtually abort the minority child's life chances by the age of six.

Minority parents do not have the level of disposable income that will allow them to send their children to the lucrative private nursery schools when government turns its back on its constituents. In 1976 there were more than 700,000 black children alone, enrolled in nursery throughout the U.S. Of all the programs developed through the "War-on-Poverty" in the 1960's, headstart and day care are by consensus, acclaimed as having been the most successful. Even the most conservative critics of the "Great Society" programs and philosophies concede that day care is worthwhile, much needed, and in terms of the positive educational influence on children, unrivaled. Only television and its yet unfathomed effects (positive and/or negative) can compete with day care as a stimulus to young minds.

With such proven effectiveness, "why" we are prompted to inquire, is day care constantly threatened with elimination? Are the costs of operating day care exorbitant? Certainly the salaries of the staff are not inflationary. Assistant teachers funded under Title XX legislation receive approximately \$6,000 per year; group teachers between \$8,000 and \$8,500; and directors, who have substantial administrative, as well as educational duties, receive on an average between \$11,000 to \$12,000 per annum. All of these jobs have relatively high and very specific education and experience requirements that must be met in order to gain employment and/or promotion. Despite a rather substantial increase in fuel costs over the past few years and other inflationary increases in all other cost categories, day care (under Title XX) has not received any budgetary increases. To my knowledge, day care centers have not been permitted to reduce the number of children served. In fact, such reductions would have

meant commensurate reductions in revenue in any case. Thus, day care has proven to be both efficient and effective. Therefore, the tenuity of its existence should not be attributed to fiscal waste. Again, we ask "why is the axe being constantly sharpened for day care?" As the more logical reasons for the elimination of day care are systematically examined and subsequently discarded, we begin to ponder other less objective reasons for the unceasing efforts to undermine day care. "Is the ultimate demise of day care a foregone conclusion because so many minority youngsters have benefited from this educational experience? Perhaps it is because the strengths developed in day care may enable some of our minority children to survive and even overcome the public school system to which they will be subsequently subjected? Because of more economic options to their avail, most white, middle-income families are not as dependent on day care for either economic uplift or their children's educational development as are minority families. (Yet with the incipient exodus of the liberated white middle-income mothers from the home, we predict the paucity of day care services will also impact their families before long).

We currently lack specific evidence to prosecute this theory further. Yet the seemingly concerted determination on the part of some of our public officials to thwart the progress of day care does cause our minds to take a curious turn.

Continuing the consideration of our questions in an inverse order, we ask why is the state of New Jersey considering the transferral of day care (funded under Title XX) to Title IV-A under welfare. We are told that the reservoir of day care funds under Title XX is drying up and in order to continue the day care fund flow, we must tap the Welfare Title IV-A source. However, the prices that must be paid for this transfer of funding sources are: the institution of a fee for the "working poor" parents, the provision of vouchers to the welfare families, and indirect control of the day care centers by the local welfare boards.

Under this proposed change of systems, the pre-school children of working mothers will be forced to remain home, thus reducing the family income. In some cases, in single parent homes, the family will be forced to apply for welfare. Everybody loses in these

situations--government, the parent and most devastatingly, the children. The cycle of poverty shall remain unbroken. Under the Title IV-A system the welfare parent will apply for day care services at the local welfare board. First, the parent shall be subjected to the bureaucratic labyrinth that is so characteristic of many government agencies. Secondly, the welfare parent will be given vouchers with which to "pay" the day care center. As a result, the day care centers must depend on an uncertain monthly payment system for their source of funding. Needless to say, their cash flow will be abominable at best and non-existent at the worst. The total equation equals chaos.

At the municipal level, in Newark where 19 day care centers funded under Title XX received a 25% matching grant through the City's HUD sponsored Community Development Block Grant, at the end of December, 1978, 7 of these centers were informed that they were no longer eligible for this funding. Fortunately, both the Mayor, Kenneth Gibson, and the City Council decided that the 25% fund match would be absorbed within the City of Newark's regular budget. While this decision relieved the immediate concern for these centers, the question remains, what happens next year? It is imperative that the Mayor and the City Council go on record as permanently committing the funding for day care. As long as day care continues to be the most viable mechanism for educating our pre-school age youngsters, day care must receive government assurances of support.

Finally, we contend that a dollar spent on day care is a prudent investment. Not only are there great prospects for realizing social dividends on the positive outcome of the pre-school youngsters, but this investment quite often represents a saving on future government costs. Positive day care experiences could reduce the need for future government spending for remedial instruction, juvenile crime, mental health therapy and so many other programs required to treat the social and psychological dysfunctions whose causes are all too often centered in thwarted early childhood development.

a United Way agency



HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAMMATIC SERVICES OF THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The Housing & Community Development Department of the Urban League of Essex County provides a wide range of counseling services in the areas of both Homeownership and Tenant Counseling. Our Homeownership Counseling Department, coordinated by Ms. Joan Richardson, provides counseling services in the areas of Pre-purchase counseling, Post-occupancy counseling, Property Maintenance and Care, and Mortgage Default and Delinquency.

Pre-Purchase Counseling

Pre-purchase counseling is a detailed, step-by-step process in which we walk a client through all stages of purchasing a home; such as, neighborhood choice, housing selection, budgeting, real estate transactions, anti-discrimination, tax and insurance, moving and packing, and repair and home maintenance. We also apprise potential homeowners in the areas of mortgage payments and counseling arrangements. The purpose of pre-purchase counseling is to establish a mechanism to prevent a loss of homes to families, which if not provided, perpetuates neighborhood deterioration, community disintegration and municipal urban blight. Many of our services are rendered to individuals who purchase their homes through the city of Newark's Land Auction process. These homes usually are sold at very low cost but our experience has shown us that the cost of establishing a home for this family comes in the areas of rehabilitation. We feel that the residents of Newark sincerely want to reinvest in their home base, therefore, we act as liaison to both the client and the number of revitalization programs that exist throughout Essex County.

Post-Occupancy

Post-occupancy counseling is a service to a client who has become a new homeowner and may need assistance in the areas of homemaking, budget and money management, and property care which assists the family in maintaining homeownership. Special emphasis is directed to

the client so that he/she should not over-invest their limited income as far as new home furnishings and interior and exterior decorating are concerned.

Property Maintenance & Care

This aspect of counseling is to involve the client in taking pride in the upkeep of his property at minimum cost to him/her. Many cases presently active in this department revolve around the financing of home improvement and maintenance cost. Some families may be eligible for various Home Improvement or Neighborhood Preservation programs subsidized by the Federal Government. The Urban League's Housing & Community Development Department will maintain contact with these improvement programs to provide information and referral for our clients.

Elements of Mortgage Default & Delinquency Counseling

Mortgage default counseling is provided to individuals or families who have fallen behind in their mortgage payments. The objective of the counseling is to assist the mortgagor (client) in reinstating and maintaining the mortgage in a "current" status so as to alleviate the incidents of default and foreclosure. The objective accomplished by assisting mortgagors through counseling is to bring and maintain mortgage payments to a current status through financial and budget management. If foreclosure is inevitable, the mortgagor is informed of their rights and responsibilities of the foreclosure laws and alternatives are sought. The method of mortgage default counseling involves several steps:

1. problem identification
2. explanation of rights and responsibilities
3. evaluation and program determination
4. referrals

The program followed is usually one or more of the following:

(Housing con't.)

1. immediate reinstatement of the mortgage
2. forbearance
3. Section 235 Recertification
4. review of the escrow account
5. redemption of the mortgage
6. HUD repurchase, recasting, fencing, partial payment
7. abeyance of payment

a little bit of H-I-S-T-O-R-Y

"TENANT COUNSELING AND ADVOCACY"

The relationship between landlord and tenant is based on English feudal law. Back around 1400, land was the most important possession. The amount of land owned determined one's wealth. The tenant's life was under the control of the landlord (the lord of the land). The tenant worked on the lord's land raising the crops and caring for the property. In exchange for this, the tenant was allowed to live on this land.

The United States adopted most of the English feudal principles. They prevailed throughout this country until the 1960's. Basically, a landlord's obligation to the tenant remained unchanged for 550 years. The landlord gave possession of the property to the tenant in return for the rent. Once the property was turned over to the tenant, the landlord had no responsibility to the tenant to make the place liveable. The legal term that describes this situation is "caveat emptor" (let the buyer beware). The tenant's obligation to pay rent did not place upon the landlord an obligation to make repairs.

In the 1800's, the industrialization and urbanization of the east coast of the United States created a situation in which more and more people became tenants and fewer and fewer people became home owners. Rich people, as well as poor people, rented their homes. New Jersey (which has some of the nation's oldest cities--Newark, Camden, Paterson), as well as other states, became plagued with a lack of new, available housing and the constant deterioration of its old units.

In the late 1960's a tenants' movement began in New Jersey. Middle-class tenants who could no longer find decent housing united

with lower income tenants (who always had a hard time getting good housing) in an effort to cause a reevaluation of the basic principles that underlie the landlord/tenant relationship and the housing market as a whole. Although the changes that have occurred so far have been small, tenants have made some progress, but the landlord still has too much power in the landlord/tenant relationship. People without wealth have a hard time getting a fair bargain whether at the department store, the grocery store or in the housing market. The power to bargain is still unevenly distributed. It's important for tenants to know the law so they can use the new remedies that it is beginning to provide and so that it is not used against them; but it is even more important for tenants to know how to organize to survive this unequal power relationship.

Our services in tenant counseling consist of pre-occupancy, rent control, maintenance and care, and eviction procedures. The methods as they relate to these areas of counseling are similar to those described in homeownership counseling.

One of our primary focuses involves the area of tenant advocacy. We are part of a coalition of tenant advocates who are constantly expressing the need of tenants to have descent, safe, and sanitary housing regardless of peoples' social economic status. Members of the coalition include the Community Housing Education Corp., The Newark Essex Legal Services, The Housing & Community Development Department of the Urban League of Essex County, The National Tenant Organization, The Metropolitan Council on Housing and all of the various Tenant Associations throughout Essex County. It is our hope as a coalition to continue our efforts in the implementation of new policies as it relates to housing and community development. Information on these various organizations and associations will be provided in future Urban League publications.

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* MARK YOUR CALENDAR *

1978 NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE CONFERENCE:

WE MEET IN LOS ANGELES,
CALIFORNIA
AUGUST 6-9.....1978

NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE PRESIDENT

VERNON E. JORDAN, JR.

"ON THE NATIONAL URBAN POLICY"

"Given the expectations raised by the year-long effort to come up with a national urban policy, the results are disheartening. The plan involves a welcome increase in assistance to distressed cities and constitutes a significant first step toward mobilizing national concern. But it falls far short of being the Domestic Urban Marshall Plan the nation needs. The proposal is not on a scale commensurate with the problem, and may not be enough to offset other federal policies that impact negatively on the cities. For all of the positives in the new plan, it should be seen as only the beginning of a new national commitment to urban revitalization, and not as an end in itself. As it now stands the plan represents a missed opportunity. The Administration and the Congress should reshape it into an Urban Marshall Plan that creates broader economic and social opportunities for the people living in urban America."

DAY CARE

A myriad of activities are in progress for the children and staff of the ULEC Wiley P. Crawford Child Development Center, under the direction of Juanita B. Falls, recently appointed Acting Center Director.

This year's events have included thus far, children oriented breakfasts (breakfasts planned and prepared by the children); celebration of Black History Week, which included silhouette portrait making of children, by children and a "Soul Snack" emphasizing ethnic foods; Puppet Show by Julia Rapicano, puppeteer; and the Week of the Young Child Celebration which was launched by a mini-parade from Military Park to City Hall and culminated with a Community Child Care Dinner at the Church of the Crossroads in East Orange.

Projected for the near future are a fashion show emphasizing spring fashions to be modeled by children and parents, a trip to the All American Circus in West Orange, New Jersey and photographs by Jo-Jo the Clown of Slayton Studio.

"Children seldom misquote....They can always say what you should never have said.....word for word."

THE URBAN LEAGUE GUILD NEEDS YOU

The Urban League, like most social service agencies, must rely heavily on volunteers in fulfilling its commitments to its constituency. Volunteers can and do make enormous contributions in serving on committees responsible for policy making, fund raising, public relations, personnel management and other functions essential to the development and implementation of an effective program of services.

The Urban League affiliates have found that they can enhance local programs and advance Urban League interests by organizing an Urban League Guild. The first guild was organized at the National Urban League in 1942. Since then, more than 80 guilds have been formed with a total membership of more than 4,000.

Urban League of Essex County Guild activities range from voter registration, fashion shows, card parties, Thanksgiving baskets, cancer screening programs and clothing distribution at Christmas. The Essex County Guild invites men and women of diverse interests to become a part of this great movement. The guild meets the first Monday of each month at the League offices, 508 Central Avenue, Newark at 6:45 p.m. Below is the ULEC Guild calendar of meeting dates and major events through December 78'.

May 1Annual Meeting
 June 5.....Regular Meeting
 Annual Fund Raiser Planned
 July & August... Recess
 September 11.Regular Meeting
 October 2....Regular Meeting
 Equal Opportunity Day Dinner
 November 6...Regular Meeting
 Thanksgiving Baskets
 December 4...Guild Christmas Party
 ULEC Emergency Assistance Christmas Program

"HELPING HANDS"

Four hearty Thanksgiving baskets were donated to the Urban League of Essex County in 77' from the International Masons and Eastern Stars, Chapter No. 31, Newark. The recipients of these gifts found new hope and another reason to be thankful...thankful for friends and neighbors who care. Thank you Mary Rawles Ethel Mosley and Nannie Morgan of the Eastern Stars.

JOBS, JOBS, JOBS!

EMPLOYMENT COUNSELING AND REFERRAL SERVICES

AT THE
URBAN LEAGUE OF ESSEX COUNTY
508 CENTRAL AVENUE
NEWARK

CALL THE: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT
FOR MORE INFORMATION
623-1780

INTERVIEWS: MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY
9 A.M. TO 12 P.M.

Emergency Assistance Program

Over the years the Urban League's Emergency Assistance Program has evolved into a very helpful tool in assisting the needy. While the program, which originated with the Greater Newark Star-Ledger Christmas Fund to provide funds for the poor in order that their Christmas season could be brightened with food, clothing and toys continues, the scope of the program was expanded to help individuals and families in distress on a year-round basis. Additional funding from the United Way of Essex and West Hudson enabled the Urban League to hire a part-time interviewer to administer this expanded program.

The expanded version of the program is to furnish food and/or clothing to victims of such catastrophies as fires, violent crimes and other equally devastating misfortunes. The aid is designed to support the person or family over a short period of time until a more permanent solution can be arranged.

In addition to identifying and verifying the individual's need for assistance, the Emergency Assistance Interviewer also refers clients to the appropriate governmental or community based agency in order to secure long-term relief from their particular plight.

The Urban League coordinates its Emergency Assistance Program with its Housing and Employment programs, as well as numerous government and community agencies such as: Welfare, New Jersey State Employment, The City of Newark's Department for the Elderly, The Salvation Army, The Red Cross and Goodwill Industries.

Although the ability to provide temporary relief to an impoverished and often desperate client offers momentary satisfaction, chagrin immediately sets in when one realizes that this individual's plight is merely a documentation of many more people that are also prey to numerous tragic situations which are often beyond their control. Clearly, these few people indicate the need for systemic changes within our society which would provide the poor the means to solve their problems themselves.

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Join The URBAN
*** LEAGUE
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APPLICATION FOR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

Contributions to the Urban League are Tax Deductible

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

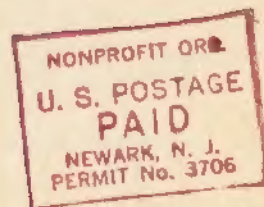
Enclosed are dues of \$ _____ for annual membership as indicated.

General Membership _____	\$ 5.00 to \$14.00
Contributing Membership _____	15.00 to 24.00
Sustaining Membership _____	25.00 or more
Urban League Guild _____	Please \$5.00 extra

*Checks should be made
payable to Urban League
of Essex County*

Signature of Contributor _____ Date _____

URBAN LEAGUE OF ESSEX COUNTY
508 CENTRAL AVENUE
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07107
"Building for Equal Opportunity"



Mr. Douglas Eldridge
125 Dodd Street
East Orange, New Jersey
07017